

## Message Text

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11

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 SAM-01 /090 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:DP

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MS. GREEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

----- 101375

R 120044Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
USMISSION SINAI  
USCINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR  
MARCH 11, 1976:

Q. AS YOU ARE DOUBTLESS AWARE, THERE IS A WIDELY CIRCULATED  
RUMOR NOW TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF  
STATE WHOSE NAME HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH THE  
SHEEHAN AFFAIR HAS, IS, OR IS ABOUT TO SIGN A PIECE OF  
PAPER TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INDISCRETIONS AND ELIM-  
INATING ALL POSSIBLE RESPONSIBILITY OR AUTHORIZATION ON THE  
PART OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT  
ON THAT?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT FOR YOU TODAY AT ALL.

Q. TOMORROW?

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A. I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q. HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THE DECISION BY THE BAHRAIN  
GOVERNMENT TO PUT AN END TO THE NAVAL FACILITIES WHICH  
WERE GRANTED TO THE UNITED STATES? AN INTERVIEW BY THE  
FOREIGN MINISTER OF BAHREIN TO A KUWAITI PAPER.

A. I WASN'T AWARE OF THAT INTERVIEW, SO I AM NOT IN A  
POSITION TO GIVE YOU A RESPONSE, I'M AFRAID. I WILL CHECK

INTO IT IF YOU LIKE.

Q. YES. HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT LEBANON? ARE YOU TRYING TO INTERVENE IN LEBANON IN VIEW --

A. ARE WE TRYING TO INTERVENE?

Q. ARE YOU PLEASED WITH THE PALESTINIAN'S ACTION THERE. ARE YOU AWARE OF IT? HAVE YOU BEEN WARNED BEFOREHAND?

A. PALESTINIAN ACTION?

Q. YES. IT SEEMS THE PALESTINIANS ARE IN CHARGE OF PUTTING AN END TO THE MILITARY REBELLION. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONSULTED.

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY SPECIFIC RESPONSE FOR YOU OTHER THAN TO REPEAT WHAT WE HAVE SAID ABOUT OUR SUPPORT FOR LEBANESE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY AND A SOLUTION THERE THAT RESPONDS TO THE WISHES OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF LEBANON.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS CONSIDERING THE PROPOSAL BY SOME SENATORS TO CHANGE THE SALE OF C-130'S TO EGYPT FROM A MILITARY SALE TO A COMMERCIAL BASIS?

A. WE ARE AWARE OF THAT PROPOSAL, BUT I DO NOT REALLY HAVE ANYTHING ON IT FOR YOU. WE ARE IN CONSULTATION --

Q. WHO DO YOU SAY MADE THE PROPOSAL?

A. I THINK SOME SENATORS -- I THINK THREE SENATORS HAVE PROPOSED THAT C-130'S BE SOLD TO EGYPT -- THE SIX THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION HERE IN RECENT DAYS -- THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS RATHER THAN THROUGH THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROCEDURE. AND MY RESPONSE IS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THAT PROPOSAL; BUT I DO NOT REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT TODAY.

Q. WHICH FIGURE DID THESE SENATORS MENTION, THREE OR SIX?

A. SIX -- THREE SENATORS, SIX PLANES.

Q. IF YOU ARE IN CONSULTATION THEN, YOU ARE CONSIDERING THAT OPTION?

A. I CAN'T SAY THAT FOR A FACT.

ON BACKGROUND, I THINK IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT,  
BUT I CAN'T SAY IT FOR A FACT. END BACKGROUND.

AFTER THE BRIEFING THE FOLLOWING Q AND A WAS POSTED FOR  
THE PRESS:

Q. HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THE DECISION BY THE BAHRAIN  
GOVERNMENT TO PUT AN END TO THE (U.S.) NAVAL FACILITIES  
WHICH WERE GRANTED TO THE U.S.? (FROM AN INTERVIEW BY  
THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF BAHRAIN APPEARING IN A KUWAIT  
NEWSPAPER.)

A. THE 1971 STATIONING AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT EITHER  
PARTY MAY TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT. THE BAHRAIN GOVERN-  
MENT HAS TOLD US THAT IT WOULD LIKE TO PHASE OUT THE  
U.S. NAVY'S MIDEAST FORCE DURING 1977. WE ARE IN CON-  
SULTATION WITH THE BAHRAIN GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER  
IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS THAT  
HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES OVER MANY YEARS.

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